

Message Text

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ORIGIN AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 EB-11 SS-20

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01

FEA-02 /141 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: USAEC:KPRESS

APPROVED BY: SCI:NFSIEVERING

USAEC:IP:ASFRIEDMAN

SCI/AE:RTWEBBER

EB/ORF/FSE:SBOSWORTH

T:RMWRIGHT

EUR/RPE:ATLIEBOWITZ

S/S:SEFRY

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 098062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW

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SUBJ: DELEGATIONS' COMMENTS ON "GUIDING PRINCIPLES" FOR THE

AD HOC GROUP ON ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLY

1. AT THE APRIL 22 MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLY, PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED GUIDING PRINCIPLES (ECG/7) PRESENTED TO THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. DETAILED BELOW ARE THE CANADIAN AND JAPANESE COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO DATE.

I. CANADA

"AS THE TWO GROUPS ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN AN INFORMATION GATHERING EXERCISE ON NATURAL URANIUM AND ENRICHMENT FOR THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP, WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY AN AGREEMENT ON GUIDING PRINCIPLES. AS THE CANADIAN DELEGATION POINTED OUT AT THE MEETING, THE MAKEUP OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY COMPREHENSIVE TO MAKE IT A LOGICAL BODY TO DEAL WITH EITHER ENRICHMENT OR URANIUM PROBLEMS. WE DO RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT IT COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL ROLE IN PROVIDING RELEVANT INFORMATION TO THE ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP. AS A RESULT, CANADA SUGGESTS THAT THE DOCUMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES BE SET ASIDE UNLESS THE GROUP IS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH MAJOR ROLES AS URANIUM PRODUCERS OR CONSUMERS.

"IF, NEVERTHELESS, CERTAIN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ARE TO BE ADOPTED, CANADA WOULD CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT A NUMBER OF CHANGES BE MADE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST, THERE SHOULD BE DISCUSSION AND CONSULTATION AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO ENCOURAGE THE ORDERLY EXPANSION OF URANIUM SUPPLIES AND ENRICHMENT CAPACITY, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY;

SECOND, IN PARTICULAR THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS (AND COOPERATION) REGARDING THE TIMELY EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES OF URANIUM ORE;

THIRD, CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS SHOULD BEAR IN MIND
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THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURANCES OF SUPPLY AND ACCESS TO MARKETS AT PRICE LEVELS WHICH WILL ENSURE ADEQUATE URANIUM PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY TO MEET WORLD MARKET REQUIREMENTS;

SIXTH, THE BENEFITS OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE OPEN TO OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES INCLUDING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES."

CANADIANS OFFERED NO COMMENTS ON THE FOURTH AND FIFTH PRINCIPLES WHICH THEY CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE.

II. JAPAN

"1. WE VIEW THAT THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP IS TO AIM AT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN SUCH FIELD AS INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN ORDER TO INCREASE SUPPLY CAPABILITY TO SUFFICIENTLY MEET RAPID INCREASE OF WORLD-WIDE DEMAND OF NUCLEAR FUELS IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS RESPECT, THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE OF A NATURE OF A KIND OF GUID-LINE FOR SUCH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

"2. SINCE NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS BIG INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL ECONOMY, EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN PROGRAM REFLECTING ITS OWN SITUATION, AND CONSIDERABLE PART OF SUCH PROGRAM IS ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT ON COMMERCIAL BASIS. ACCORDINGLY, THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SHOULD NEITHER BE OF A BINDING NATURE NOR OF A NATURE WHICH RESTRICTS INCREASE OF SUPPLY CAPABILITY OR NATURAL URANIUM NOR ENRICHED URANIUM.

"3. HENCE, THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SHOULD NEITHER BE OF A NATURE OF A TREATY NOR AN AGREEMENT, BUT SHOULD TAKE A FORM OF A DECLARATION ADOPTED AS A CONCLUSION OF THE WORK OF THE AD HOC GROUP."

2. U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO KEEP OTHER PARTICIPANTS ABREAST OF ANY OTHER COMMENTS MADE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED MAY 17-18 MEETING OF THE SUBGROUPS OR WILL REPORT ON ANY NEW COMMENTS AT THAT MEETING. IN THE INTERIM,
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PAPER ON "GUIDING PRINCIPLES" IS BEING PREPARED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT AS PROMISED AT APRIL 22 MEETING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: URANIUM, SUPPLIES, COMMITTEES, MEETING DELEGATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE098062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USAEC:KPRESS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740115-1032
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabxme.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AEC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 NOV 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELEGATIONS' COMMENTS ON "GUIDING PRINCIPLES" FOR THE AD HOC GROUP ON ENRICHED URANIUM SUPPLY
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GE, JA, CA, US
To: BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005